



# Open Education, Open Opportunities

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# Objectives

- ▶ Define and give examples of OER
- ▶ Begin searching for available OER
- ▶ Understand how and why to integrate OER into the digital classroom

# Eeyore? “OER”? Huh?

- ▶ OER stands for *Open Educational Resources*
  - ▶ Includes textbooks, videos, lesson plans, assignments/exercises, tutorials, and more.
- ▶ “Open” in this context means open for reuse by others.
  - ▶ Might mean no copyright restrictions, do whatever you want.
  - ▶ Might mean you can use it with certain conditions, such as giving attribution to the original author and not profiting from the reuse.
- ▶ Unlike some curricular materials, which may be shared online but still under full copyright restrictions, true OERs grant greater rights to use and even “re-mix” (adapt) content for your own teaching purposes.

# How does OER benefit students?

- ▶ Cost savings
  - ▶ Ensured access to course texts, regardless of income
  - ▶ Greater security to achieve academic goals
- ▶ Accessibility
  - ▶ Immediate access for distance learners who cannot just walk into a campus bookstore – no waiting for online orders to ship
  - ▶ Easier for students with disabilities to adapt text\* as they need – zoom text, screen-reading software, etc.  
*(\* this type of accessibility may vary item by item)*

# How does OER benefit professors?

- ▶ Leverage the work of expert peers at institutions such as MIT.
- ▶ Freedom and flexibility of selection
  - ▶ Mix and match readings, videos, exercises, etc. to better suit your preferred teaching styles and your students' needs.
  - ▶ Rather than relying on a single textbook, break content into "pieces" and select the resources that teach each piece in the best way.
- ▶ Customization
  - ▶ Remix and adapt resources to better fit your teaching goals or style.

# How might OER benefit SHSU?

- ▶ Attract potential students with promises of little to no textbook costs.
- ▶ SB 810 – Proposed legislation in the state of Texas
  - ▶ Would require universities to provide transparent information about course textbook selections, including retail cost, and particularly identify courses or course sections which use only OER.
  - ▶ Even if this bill does not pass this time, legislation like this has passed in other states, and discussion in Texas is likely to continue.
  - ▶ Beginning to embrace OER now can help ease the transition for you as an individual and SHSU as an institution.

# What about quality control?

- ▶ You can seek the benefits – You don't have to sacrifice quality.
- ▶ High-quality OERs should provide details of authorship.
- ▶ Many open textbooks go through professional peer-review and editing, just like commercial textbooks.

# What to look for

- ▶ Who authored it? What individual; what institution?
- ▶ What level is the content designed for? Post-secondary/college?
  - ▶ Would upper-level high school content suit your freshmen class?
- ▶ Did it undergo peer review and/or professional editing service?
- ▶ Review the content yourself, as you would with any textbook or course resource.
  - ▶ Are there errors in basic facts? Does the content reflect bias or prejudice?
  - ▶ Is the content well-organized and clearly explained?
- ▶ How accessible is it for students who may require accommodations?
- ▶ Is it adoptable? Or if there are minor issues, could you *adapt* it, e.g, by correcting small errors or reorganizing chapters?
- ▶ *\*\* See library's online guide for tips and rubrics to help in evaluation \*\**

# Where can you find OER?

- ▶ Today we will focus mainly on four collections:
  - ▶ OpenStax Higher Education Textbooks
  - ▶ Open SUNY Textbooks
  - ▶ OER Commons
  - ▶ MERLOT
- ▶ ...But there are many more! (*See the library's online guide for links!*)

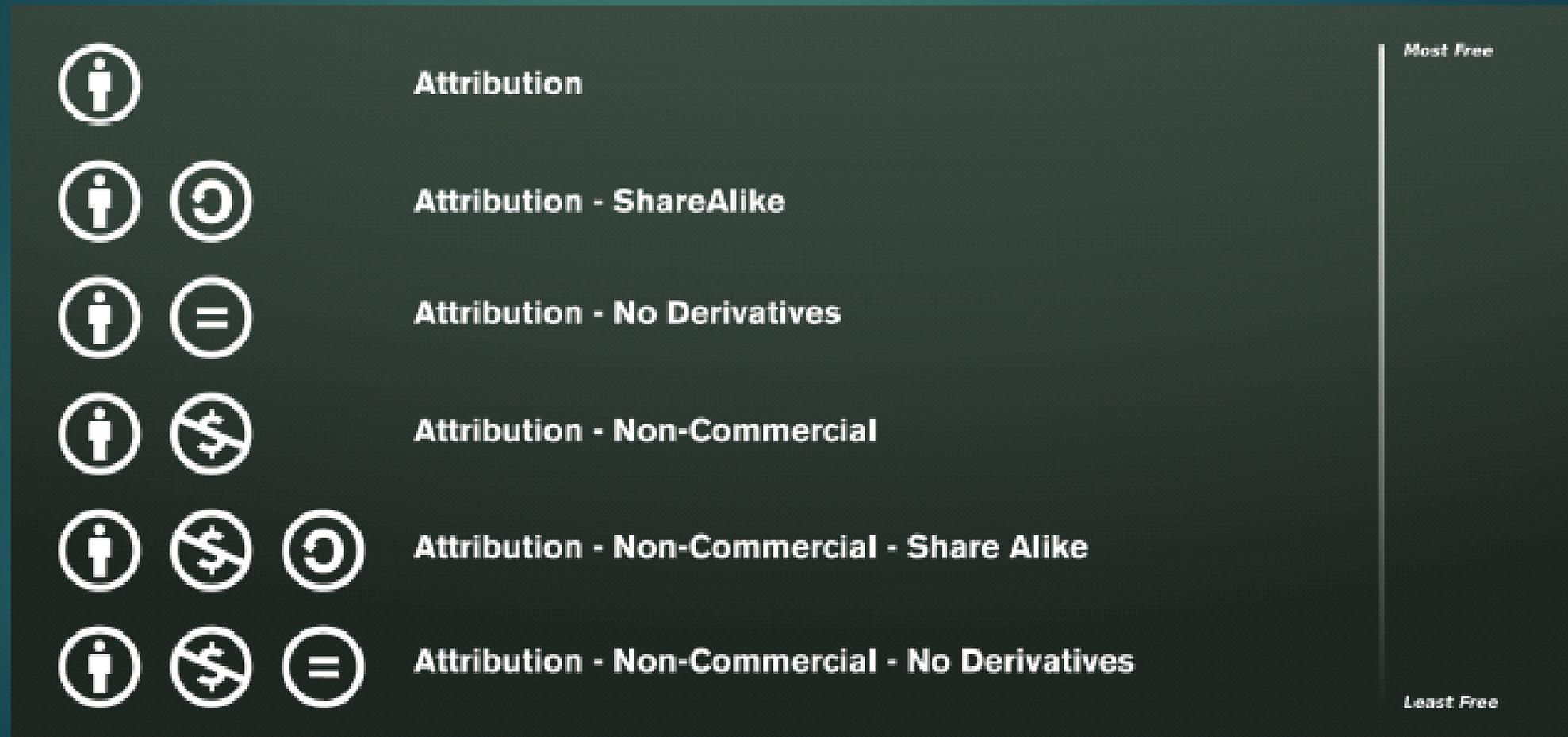
Live demo of OER collections...



# Once you've found OERs, how can you use them?

- ▶ Ideally, OER can be used, adapted, etc. with little or no restriction.
- ▶ In reality, items found in OER collections may have varying licenses.
- ▶ **ALWAYS CHECK** the item's copyright / license / terms of use.
- ▶ With OER, these often take the form of Creative Commons licenses...

# Once you've found OERs, how can you use them?



# Once you've found OERs, how can you use them?

- ▶ Use them as you wish, within the boundaries of the license/terms.
  - ▶ Link out to the original item, or your adapted version, on a website.
  - ▶ Embed / upload in Blackboard.
- ▶ *\*\* See online guide for steps and tips for OER adoption. \*\**
- ▶ Ask your SHSUOnline instructional designer if you need technical help with integrating specific items into Blackboard.
- ▶ Questions about how you're allowed to reuse what you've found? You or your instructional designer can contact me for guidance.

# Ok, I'm sold! But I'm not finding what I want for my course. What next?

- ▶ Seek suggestions from peers at other institutions.
- ▶ Ask your subject librarian for assistance in searching for OERs.
- ▶ Found something *close*? Adapt it to create your own version!
- ▶ Still nothing? Consider creating the needed content from scratch and publishing it online with a Creative Commons license for other educators to use.

# Library Guide: Open-Access Resources for Teaching

- ▶ Guide at <http://ShsuLibraryGuides.org/OER>
- ▶ Consult online any time for links to OER collections, evaluation rubrics, advice for adoption, and more.
- ▶ This will be a living, evolving resource for our faculty.

# Questions? Need help? Ask!

- ▶ Erin Cassidy
- ▶ Associate Professor, Scholarly Communications Librarian
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